



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Tobi Gummer, Division of School Transportation & Emergency Planning

DATE: February 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Preparedness Week

To focus attention upon the rapidly approaching tornado and severe weather season, the National Weather Service in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Police, Indiana Homeland Security and various other agencies announces March 15 through 21, 2009 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week	Drill Exercise	Time
March 15-21, 2009	Wednesday, March 18, 2009	Between: 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. E.D.T.

The statewide tornado drill will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The exact exercise time is not released to allow for effective testing of response times. The message will be distributed through normal channels, including the Emergency Alert System, the National Warning System Hotline, the Indiana NOAA Weather Wire Service and the NOAA Weather Radio. If weather postpones the tests, make-up drill day is Thursday March 19 at the same times listed above.

The National Weather Service has established an evening drill exercise between 7:00-7:30 p.m. We ask that teachers encourage students to practice appropriate severe weather procedures at home with their families. We also encourage schools to participate in the evening exercise during after school events.

IMPORTANT – Schools are now required to conduct 1(one) Tornado drill and 1(one) Man-Made Occurrence drill each semester or trimester.

Only schools involved in the accreditation process for 2008-09 are required to complete the DOE-TN3 Emergency Drill Date Report Form. The online report can be found on the Department's web page, <http://www.doe.in.gov/htmls/doetn3.html>. You may begin reporting data on March 18, 2009, but no later than April 30, 2009.

For all other schools, please note that State Board of Education rules require that a permanent record of all drills must be maintained by the building principal or designee.

The Division's web page, www.doe.in.gov/safety, has available other weather links, weather radar, tornado safety rules, and education sites. You may also access the information from the National Weather Service web page at www.noaa.gov, for further assistance, please contact Tobi Gummer at 317-232-0890 or e-mail tgummer@doe.in.gov.